

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 09713 170013Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 PC-01 EB-08 COME-00 (ISO) W
-----015676 170212Z /73

P R 160853Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7612
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9713

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJ: KOREA: OPEN SEASON ON CORRUPTION

SUMMARY: IN ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN INCREASED PUBLIC INTEREST
AND SUPPORT, OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) APPEARS
TO HAVE SCORED BEST WITH ATTACKS ON CORRUPTION IN CURRENT
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. IN APPARENT RECOGNITION OF
PUBLIC INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE, REGIME AND RULING PARTIES
HAVE ALSO TAKEN STRONG ANTI-CORRUPTION STANCE.

1. OF THE MANY TACTICS PURSUED BY THE NDP IN THE CURRENT
SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE ITS PUBLIC
IMAGE AS A GENUINE POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND EFFECTIVE
CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS, THE PARTY'S
AGGRESSIVE EXPOSURE OF ALLEGED GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION HAS
BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE. THE RULING PARTIES EVIDENTLY
PERCEIVED THE POPULARITY OF THE ISSUE AND THEY TOO
HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME JOINED IN THE ATTACK ON IRREGU-
LARITIES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY THE BUREAUCRACY. PERHAPS
TO PREVENT PERMITTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM PREEMPTING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 09713 170013Z

THE ISSUE, PRESIDENT PAK HIMSELF ONCE AGAIN PUBLICLY
UNDERLINE HIS DETERMINATION TO ROOT OUT CORRUPTION IN
A STATEMENT TO A REGULAR CABINET SESSION ON OCTOBER 27.

2. AMONG THE MANY CHARGES OF CORRUPTION FILED BY NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, THOSE THAT ATTRACTED MORE THAN USUAL
INTEREST INCLUDED: ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CHIEF JUSTICE

MIN POK-KI OF THE SUPREME COURT, IN A LAND SALE CASE DATING BACK TO 1958; AGAINST THE KOREA MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY (KMPA), FOR IMPROPRIETIES IN DREDGING PUSAN HARBOR; AGAINST CHONG SO-YONG, A FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRIES, FOR LEAKING TO A RELATIVE INFORMATION WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO PROFITEER FROM GOVERNMENT PLANS; AGAINST KOREA ELECTRIC COMPANY (KECO), OVER FAULTY EQUIPMENT AT THE KORI NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS; AND AGAINST KOREA MARINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KMIDC) FOR IMPORTING FISHING BOATS AT INFLATED PRICES. AS OF MID-NOVEMBER, CHARGES HAD BEEN BROUGHT OR INVESTIGATION BEGUN IN THREE INSTANCES: THE MIN POK-KI, KMPA, AND KMIOC CASES. IN ADDITION, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CHARGED THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MCI) HAD ACCEPTED BRIBES FROM THE PLASTIC INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE. AS A RESULT, SEVERAL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING TWO BUREAU DIRECTORS, HAVE RESIGNED. AT A REGULAR BLUE HOUSE CABINET MEETING OCTOBER 27, PRESIDENT PAK SAID HE SUPPORTED NEWSPAPERS' BPULISHING THE NAMES OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS AND URGED HIS MINISTERS TO BE MORE RIGID IN ENFORCING DISCIPLINE WITHIN THEIR MINISTRIES.

3. OVERALL, NDP LEGISLATORS SEEM TO FEEL THAT CORRUPTION IS THE ISSUE ON WHICH THEY HAVE SCORED BEST WITH THE VOTERS. ASSEMBLYMAN HAN PYONG-CH'AE SAID THAT HE FEELS THE NDP'S ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA PROMOTED GREATER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 09713 170013Z

AWARENESS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ITSELF AND ITS ROLE IN GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS BOOSTING THE PARTY'S IMAGE.

4. NDP ASSEMBLYMAN HAN, SAYING HE KNEW THAT PRESIDENT PAK WAS PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN EXPOSURE OF CORRUPTION, POINTED OUT THAT SUCH ACTIVITY PROVIDED PAK WITH ANOTHER CHANNEL FOR FINDING OUT WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON. A BLUE HOUSE REPORTER TOLD EMBOFF THAT REPORTERS THERE HAD ALSO HEARD OF PAK'S SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS AGAINST CORRUPTION, BUT THAT PRESIDENT HAD WARNED THAT ANY ACCUSORS HAD BETTER HAVE THEIR FACTS STRAIGHT. SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL09713
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770425-0228
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771152/aaaabsfy.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5e5b3819-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 567813
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREA: OPEN SEASON ON CORRUPTION SUMMARY: IN ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN INCREASED PUBLIC INTEREST AND SUPPORT, OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)
TAGS: PINT, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e5b3819-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009